

The Athens Post.

BY SAM. P. IVINS.

ATHENS, TENNESSEE, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1869.

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TERMS:
THE POST IS PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY.
At Two Dollars a Year, Payable
in Advance.

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Communications, to secure insertion, must be accompanied by the name of the authors.

The Post.

Athens, Friday, Feb. 12, 1869.

Manufacturing at the South.
Persons are now in New York from the South to purchase machinery for cotton factories in Louisiana and Mississippi. They are partly backed by foreign capitalists. 1869 will mark the beginning of the manufacturing era in the South.

Pretty Tart.
The Nashville Banner says: Robbing the school children of the State out of \$600,000 may be a very criminal procedure, but it doesn't compare to the theft of disfranchising nearly a hundred thousand tax-payers and living on their taxation.

No War.
The latest dispatches from the Grecian capital seem to settle the quarrel with Turkey on a satisfactory basis. A majority of the Greek Cabinet agreeing to the propositions of the Paris Conference—Turkey having previously given in her assent—there is absolutely nothing left to worry about. So—all is well that ends well. "Let us have Peace."

Cotton and Corn.
The Wilmington, N. C., Star says, and wisely, we think, that if cotton should now decline to 20 cents per pound it would, in the end, prove a blessing to the South.
It is very nice, it says, to talk about selling cotton at 25 cents per pound and buying corn at 75 cents per bushel.—But suppose we have to sell our cotton at fifteen cents per pound, and buy corn at a dollar and a half per bushel? Wise planters will take the hint and grow both corn and cotton.

Poor Tommy Hamilton.
The Committee appointed to look into the case of an extra member to Congress from Tennessee, have reported adversely, and so Mr. Hamilton, of Shelby, is turned out to grass again. That extra-member business was a cool thing any way. The radicals enfranchised fifty thousand blacks and disfranchised one hundred thousand white men, and then claimed an additional representation in the national legislature by reason of this piece of political rascality.

A Rich Chunk.
A nugget of gold worth \$9,000 was recently mined out of the bowels of the earth in New South Wales. It was found near a spot where, three weeks before, a lump of the auriferous valued at \$6,000 was revealed to the searchers.
There are prolific washings at Coker Creek and rich diggings along Valley River, but we don't believe any developments have yet been made at either place that will compare with the above intelligence from New South Wales.

The Indian Business.
In the House of Representatives on the 5th, the discussion on the Indian appropriations was resumed, with the following result:
The Indian Bureau was denounced as utterly corrupt, and the military was charged in the course of the discussion with stealing more than the entire Indian appropriation. Mr. Holbrook, delegate from Idaho, said Butler made assertions unqualifiedly false. The speaker called him to order for using language most insulting. Holbrook declined to retract. A resolution of censure was passed, which the speaker administered and which Holbrook received without retracting the offensive words. In the course of the argument, Butler said the time might come, when, in order to arrest these stealings, the Senate and House would have to stop the supplies.

From the South.
A Washington date says: Gen. Porter and Babcock, of Grant's staff, have returned from an extended trip through the South, and report affairs as very quiet, with business prospering and improving. They do not intend to make an official report.

THE MISSING SCHOOL FUND.

How it was Disposed Of—Bribery and Corruption.
As was stated in a short paragraph in the Post last week, the Special Committee appointed to investigate the School Fund Corruption, in connection with the National Bank at Memphis, made a full report on the 2d instant, which was read in the House of Representatives, and five thousand copies ordered to be printed. It is lengthy, covering five hundred pages of foolscap, and, as previously intimated, makes developments of an astounding character, and which are producing intense excitement, not only among the members of the Legislature, but in every direction. The Report is too long to attempt even an intelligent synopsis, and we must ask our readers to be content with the following.

It will be remembered, that after the surrender, some four hundred thousand dollars of the School Fund was recovered and turned over to the custody of the State authorities at Nashville. The fund was subsequently deposited with the Memphis institution named, of which Geo. R. Rutter was the President, by the State Treasurer, Dr. Stanford, under the authority of an act or resolution, worked through the Legislature by bribery, fraud and corruption. When the collapse occurred and it became evident that a large portion of the fund was hopelessly lost, Dr. Stanford, who had probably been overreached, duped and betrayed by others, sought refuge in the grave of a suicide, and much of the censure due to the really guilty fell upon his memory. An agent was appointed to look into the business, and the subject has occasionally been referred to in strong terms by the Nashville and Memphis papers. Finally it was determined to have the fraud legally and thoroughly investigated and the really guilty parties exposed. For this purpose steps were taken to arrest Rutter, the President of the defaulting Bank and bring him to Nashville, before a Committee of Investigation raised by the Legislature, which was ultimately done. Under the fear of a criminal prosecution, Rutter appears to have made a clean breast of it, detailing all the particulars of the transaction, the history of his Bank, the means and appliances used to get possession of the School Fund, the names of members of the Legislature of 1865-6 implicated, &c. Rutter's statements are fully corroborated by the correspondence between the high contracting parties pending the inception, development and culmination of the scheme, and by other evidence adduced before the Committee.

Standing out among the most prominent of those who were bribed stands S. M. Arnell, present member of Congress, and who was then a member of the Legislature and well known as the author of the Tennessee franchise law. Two other members of Congress, Mullins and Nunn, who were then members of the House, also, according to the most ample testimony, received bribes, but they were not so deep in the villainy as Arnell. The latter's name figures largely through the testimony and correspondence, it being clearly proved that he pocketed \$5,500 at one haul. Mullins was a cheaper man. He seems to have sold out for the pitiful sum of five hundred dollars. Speaker Richards and other prominent parties are implicated by the testimony adduced and published in the Report. A correspondent, writing on the subject, says: "In looking over the testimony and correspondence, it is somewhat amusing to see how beautifully bribery and loyalty are blended together, and with what charming valvate Arnell talks about promoting the good cause of Education, while he pocketed his thousands of stolen funds."

We regard it unfortunate that the proportions of the Report place it beyond the limits of ordinary newspaper space, as in attempting to condense injustice may unintentionally be done. We think, however, that the following testimony of the chief lobbyist, in connection with what has already been published, will give the intelligent and candid reader a pretty correct idea of the character of the transaction and the means and men employed in its consummation. The witness was in the capacity of Rutter's confidential adviser and agent, and can, therefore, speak by the card. His revelations are as follows:

R. S. Parham, sworn: Question—Please state your name, age, residence and occupation.
Answer, Mr. name is Richard S. Parham, my age is forty-three, my residence is Memphis, Tennessee, my occupation is that of an Attorney-at-law.
Question, Please state if you are acquainted with George R. Rutter, of Memphis, and his relation to the Tennessee National Bank of that city; if so, when you became so acquainted?
Ans. I am acquainted with George R. Rutter. I became acquainted with him

about the time the bank was organized, and my acquaintance has continued to the present time.
Question, Please look at the affidavit here shown you and marked exhibit B of Rutter's deposition, and also made exhibit B of your deposition, and state the circumstances under which it was made; also state all you may know relative to the truth of the matter there sworn to; also look at letters C, D, E, F and G here shown you and marked exhibits, and state all you may know relative to the contents and truth of the statements made in each of said letters; the circumstances under which the letters were written, who wrote them, and all you may know relative to the transactions disclosed, either in said affidavit or said letters.

Ans. The affidavit shown me is mine, made on the day it bears date; I made it at the request of Mr. Rutter; he had previously a written statement of mine to the same effect; the statements made therein are true; I might have been mistaken as to the given name, or the initials of the person; in every other respect the affidavit is correct and true, the letters shown me are in my hand writing, and contain the version of the transaction as it occurred from day to day, of which I took this means of informing Mr. Rutter from time to time.

Question, At whose instance did you come to Nashville, and when and under what solicitation, &c.
Ans. I came to Nashville first in January, 1866. I had started to Nashville on business personal to myself. I met Mr. Rutter on the road and he employed me to assist him, in defending Mr. Cherry, the President of the Merchant's National Bank of Memphis, in his efforts to have that bank appointed Fiscal Agent of the State on deposit. Mr. Cherry was here and actively at work for that purpose, and had a resolution, or other legislative means pending looking to that end. After these were defeated, Mr. Rutter then employed me in having his bank selected for these purposes.

Question, How did you aid him in this, and by what means?
Ans. The ultimate plan adopted was that we would have passed a resolution or bill through the Legislature leaving it to some one or more of the State Executive officers to designate what banks should be the fiscal agents and depositories of the State, and would get political friends so to induce us as would secure the first appointment, and thereby insure a large deposit and great influence; this plan ultimately succeeded, and we secured the passage of a bill to that effect; the forty-third section of the act passed May 2d, 1866, being the general appropriation bill, give the power and authority to the Treasurer to select the depositories, taking a bond for two hundred thousand dollars; the bond was given by Mr. Rutter, approved by the Governor and received by the Treasurer; I desire to say that I did not get any of these funds, nor did I see them, nor did I know that the fund would be hazarded at that time, or know when the deposit was made; I thought that it would be fully as safe in the Tennessee National Bank as where it was.

Question, What influences were brought to bear upon members, or what means used to secure the passage of this 43d section, and what was the history of its passage, and upon what members?
Ans. Of course we became acquainted with members, and in a social way sought for their good opinion, rendered service in the way of drawing resolutions, bills and charters; in short, adopted all the means usual to lobbying. In addition to these, we made promise to many members, (and to others for their influence), offering to disburse their notes or lend them money as they might need it. There never was, so far as I know, any money given directly in consideration of a specified note or a direct bargain made to any member to the effect that if he voted for a certain resolution or bill he should have so much money. We gave promise and extended favors pending these negotiations or transactions, with the following gentlemen: S. M. Arnell, of Maury, received part in consideration of a note discounted, and part in cash. I cannot state the proportions—fifty-five hundred dollars, as a loan, I believe.—F. S. Richards, of Shelby, partly in consideration of his note discounted, and partly in cash, received fifty-five hundred dollars. I know that five hundred of this was in cash sent by Mr. Rutter, all as a loan. Mr. Wines of Montgomery, received twenty-five hundred dollars. I don't know whether he ever gave any or not. He said he wanted to speculate in some lands in the Northwest. James Mullins, of Bedford, to my knowledge received only five hundred dollars in cash. I don't know that he ever gave any note. W. K. Hull, Senator, received one thousand dollars for which he executed his note, with some gentleman from Kentucky. I think, as indorser. All these gentlemen promised to return the money at some time, or something to that effect. (There was a young man who was frequently with Mr. Wilson, Duggan, of Sevier, who came to me and said, if I would give him one hundred dollars he would secure Duggan's influence. I gave it to him. What he did with it, I don't know, nor do I remember his name. I saw Mr. Rutter present Dr. Mulloy with a suit of clothes. Gen. John Eaton, Jr., told me that he was in the employ of Mr. Rutter to secure the passage of the bill. We consulted together frequently. He received one hundred dollars at one time to pay traveling expenses. All these transactions were had pending the passage of the bill, before it passed. I disbursed about thirteen thousand dollars to various persons outside the Legislature to secure influence. I am now sued for the money.

Question, State where the thirteen thousand dollars was deposited, and by whom actually paid out.
Ans. It was never deposited at all. I paid out some from hand to hand. For other amounts I drew checks on the Tennessee National Bank, and I would hand the check to some one, frequently a third party, and saw the check no more. Generally I received actual cash, and paid it out myself, a great deal for drinks, suppers, drives, loans, &c.
Question, Who did you regard as the warm friends of the measure?
Ans. The warmest friends were Arnell, Fison, Mullins, Duggan, Donaldson, Mulloy, Patton, Wines and many others—these were the gentlemen who consulted together. In the Senate were Hall, Cypher, McKinney and others.
Question, From your letters you express some doubts as to Richards, W. J. Smith and others. Were these gentlemen enemies of the bill?
Ans. They both were enemies or the bill, for a time. They afterward became friends to it, and so expressed themselves. During the investigation afterward, Richards made the best speech on the side of the bank that was made in the House. I never made the initiative to these gentlemen (Smith and Richards). They approached me as co-workers and friends of Rutter's.
Question, You have spoken of money that you have disbursed. Do you know of any other persons paying out any to the same end?
Ans. The moneys I have heretofore spoken of were those disbursed by myself and Rutter, and are such as come within my personal knowledge. I heard Rutter say that he had given S. K. N. Patton some money. I don't remember the amount. I think four or five thousand dollars; also Barbour Lewis, General Eaton, John Martin and Judge Leonard. I understood him to say and mean that these gentlemen had been paid for services rendered in getting the State depository and the fiscal agency for his bank. I heard him speak of having paid out other moneys, but can not state the connection. Newspapers were paid for inserting articles favorable to the bank. These articles were usually written by outside parties, and the papers paid to insert them as editorials. I know that the Press and Times were paid for inserting an editorial which I wrote, recommending the passage of such a bill as was finally passed. The Banner was paid for inserting an article, as editorial, but I do not remember the substance. I think it was to prevent the passage of a fiscal agency bill, differing from the one we passed. All these transactions took place two years ago, and I have not recalled them since.

Question, What bank in Nashville usually took your checks?
Ans. Mainly Wing, Toby & Co., though they were taken by several banks and persons. Most of the checks drawn by me went to Memphis by private hands.

CORRESPONDENCE.
The following are copies of telegrams and letters, or portions thereof, addressed by Parham to Rutter:
NASHVILLE, February 5, 1866.—All is well here. Arnell says come, I say come immediately. R. S. PARHAM.
NASHVILLE, November 8, 1866.—I have now been here long enough to mingle with all our old acquaintances of the Legislature, which I have accordingly done.
There are to-day about forty members of the House in the city. Arnell, Norman, Mulloy, Mullins, Wines, Harvey, Brown, Patton and others, without any previous mention of you on my part inquired of you and the bank, and expressed themselves in most friendly terms. I had especially a long conversation with Arnell last night, who told me that he was yesterday at the Governor's room. I am sure that Arnell is warmly your friend. He says that you are all right with the State authorities, and cannot be touched by anybody; that it is especially understood that you are in every way protected, assisted and benefited. I took a drink with Mullins, and he told me to tell you that he "remembered you as a lovely spot in memory's waste," as "the shadow of a great rock in the desert," as "the rose of Sharon and the Lilly of the Valley;" that "as the cedar is among the trees of Lebanon, so art thou among men." Much more did brother Mullins proceed to say until I was weary of the theme, and proposed to bet him a hundred dollars that he wanted to borrow money. I am satisfied you will be granted anything you ask. I told Arnell that you were foremost in assisting the Union cause and Union men, and could always be counted on. He said he knew this, and on account of the party, he wanted you to make money. Don't forget to send me the checks you promised me.—You may see my expressions here ought to be heard, and I have never yet given Duggan that hat of which he reminded me yesterday, and he voted for us, and worked for us. I am reduced to my last few dollars.
Yours, respectfully, R. S. PARHAM.
P. S.—I wish especially to make a friend of the Clerk of the Senate, and also to cultivate a few of its members. I shall, on this account have to spend some money. R. S. P.

In another letter, dated February 7, 1867, Parham writes: "There was to-day introduced a resolution in the Senate, (and passed) calling upon the committee to report instantly as to how they had settled with the bank at Memphis, what they had done with the money they had received, and what the present condition of the money in hand. This was done by Carrigan, (a Conservative) It does not amount to anything; the committee will report when they please, and not before."
R. S. PARHAM.
The forthcoming public debt statement, it is said, will show an increase of eleven million dollars. Meanwhile, tax-payers ante up, and the dance goes on.

THE LEGISLATURE.

The following occurred in the State Senate on the 2d instant:
House bill proposing an amendment to the Constitution by imposing a poll-tax on negroes, was taken up on its second reading.
Mr. Wisener offered an amendment to the bill by inserting "who are not legal voters," proposing to exempt the disfranchised people from the payment of a poll. Lost.
Mr. Patterson then offered a bill in lieu, embracing universal suffrage, but excluding from office all who are disqualified by article 14 of the Constitution of the United States; also, requiring negroes to pay poll-tax.
On motion of Mr. Wisener, the action of the Senate in passing the bill on its first and second reading, was reconsidered. It not having been done in accordance with the Constitution, which requires such bill to be passed three different times on each of three different days.

The bill and amendment offered in lieu by Mr. Patterson, were then referred to the Judiciary Committee.
The following resolution was adopted in the House:
Resolved, That E. H. East be, and he is hereby, requested, as Attorney for the State, to institute such suit or suits as he may deem proper, whether civil or criminal, against all persons and parties who, in his opinion, have become liable to such suits or prosecutions on account of the mismanagement or embezzlement of the School Fund, and that he receive such compensation as the Governor, Comptroller, Secretary of State and Treasurer may deem just and proper to the State, to be agreed upon either before or after the services may be rendered; and that if the said East should decline such services, the State officers aforesaid be requested to employ other counsel on like terms.

Resolutions to expel Speaker Richards for alleged complicity with the "Missing School Fund" having been introduced, that officer tendered his resignation until the charges could be investigated, and Mr. Prosser was chosen as temporary Speaker.

On the 4th, Mr. Taylor, of Carter, laid before the House some additional testimony taken by the School Fund Committee. It exonerates Gov. Brownlow and his sons from any thing like bribery or corruption in connection with the missing School Fund.

Negro Suffrage.

The New York Journal of Commerce thinks the people generally are weary of the persistent agitation of the negro suffrage question, and expresses the conviction, hence, that if the constitutional amendment is ratified by three-fourths of the States, it will be rather by default than by the pressure of earnest public sentiment. The editor adds:
Should the experiment prove a disastrous failure, and add another danger to the many perils that menace the republic, by greater preponderance in the national councils to ignorance and dishonesty, then look out for a convulsive reaction, and that speedily. If Legislatures can make amendments to the Constitution, Legislatures can unmake them, too. Upon the single issue of such a repeal, a great party might arise and sweep the country.

Argument for a Herd Law.

The Georgia Constitutionalist attacks the system of "worm" or common rail fencing as follows:
There are 500,000 miles of fencing in Georgia. The rails required for a ten rail fence for one mile is 9,000, and for all the Georgia fences, 4,500,000,000. The value of these, taking the worth of timber, splitting, hauling and putting up, is \$500 per mile, amounting to \$225,000,000. The duration of these fences is 7 years. The annual interest at 20 per cent, allowing 13 per cent. for decay, is \$3,000,000.
The Constitutionalist asserts that herding stock is cheaper than the use of fences to protect crops against them, and is a good argument for a herd law.

Dakota Territory.

One of our Northern exchanges—the New York Express, we believe—says: The Dakota Territory correspondents of the various newspapers are trying hard to get up a gold excitement. (They are pulling the "Black Hills discoveries" with an energy perfectly steam-engine-like. The Black Hills district, where gold is said to lie around loose in lumps "to suit purchasers," is 435 miles from Omaha. There is an agency at a place called Wheelton, which wants one thousand brave, enterprising men to go to these "Black Hills" on the 10th of May next, on a gold-hunting expedition. We do not advise any body to book himself for the "pleasure excursion."
The Coker Creek Mines in Monroe county, Tennessee, are not near so far from home, and the "Diggings," we suspect, just as rich.

London claims to be as large as New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Boston, Brooklyn, Baltimore, New Orleans, Buffalo and Louisville combined.
The New York World, according to report, intends to assert its independence, hereafter, of all political parties, and Marble, in buying the whole of the paper, designs to withdraw from merely Democratic influence.

STOKES ON SUFFRAGE.

Ex-rebel Stokes has written a letter to some of the members of the Tennessee Legislature on the subject of "universal suffrage." He is "dead agin it"—as follows:

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 31, 1869.
Messrs. D. G. Thornburg, John Welsh and F. S. Singletary:
GENTLEMEN: Your letter of the 26th inst. is before me. You say that "it is rumored and currently reported that you" (me) "are in favor of universal suffrage."
I answer, emphatically, that I am not, nor never have been, and don't know that I ever will be.
When the killing of Union men ceases, the hellish organization known as Ku Klux disbands, and the laws are observed, then I am willing to entertain a proposition to amend the State constitution so as to allow the disfranchised to come in gradually, by providing that the Legislature may, by a two-thirds vote, remove the disabilities of those who petition and come well recommended by their loyal neighbors.—This would let in the well-disposed ex-rebels, and keep out the bad ones. This would not endanger the Republican party, for the reason that it would require a two-thirds vote of each house to remove their disabilities, and, in my judgment, it will be some time before the Conservative Democracy will have such a majority.
The idea of amending the constitution so as to place the ballot in the hands of those outlaws at one clean sweep, and at the present time, would be cruel to the Union men.
I hope this will be satisfactory; at least you will be enabled to know where I stand.
With my kind wishes, I am truly yours,
W. B. STOKES.

Agricultural Items.

To manufacture "home-made guano," collect a barrel of bones and crush them; mix with a barrel of oak or hickory ashes; moisten with soap-suds, apply a quart or two at a time. Use as a special fertilizer on melons, squashes, early corn, and cucumbers; allowing a gill to a hill.

He is a farmer who keeps his farm from running down. He who does not do this is a pretended farmer.

Mangers should be low, and stables well ventilated and well lighted. Many horses are made blind by being kept in the dark.

Some farmers are so stupid as to laugh at their neighbors who practice carding their cows. Yet the good results of this practice are seen, not only in the better appearance of the animals that are carded daily, but in fuller milk pails.

A correspondent has found that eight bushels of salt and one of plaster will cause an acre of clay loam to produce more than an equally expensive application of barn-yard manure.

Onions are among the most healthful vegetables for stock as well as for man, though the vile flavor they give to butter forbids their use as cow feed.

A Maine farmer fattened a cow chiefly on turnips, and the result surpassed expectation. The beef was of fine quality, and the tallow unusually abundant.

The Indian—and his Bow.

Gen. Sanborn, of Minnesota, is in favor of supplying the Indians with guns on the ground that their bows and arrows are more deadly in their hands than fire-arms. The effective distance to which an arrow can be thrown is about eighty yards. An expert warrior drawing three at a time, can discharge them so rapidly that he will have the third arrow in the air before the first reaches its destination. At the Phil Kearney massacre eighty-two men and officers were killed in less than one hour, and only two were slain by bullets.

Charcoal.

In every hog-pen there should be a trough, in which should be deposited weekly a quantity of charcoal. The hog eagerly devours this substance, and is greatly benefited and strengthened by its constant use. It prevents many unpleasant diseases, and contributes largely to the fatty secretions.

Coal Dust.

It has recently been found that waste coal dust makes an admirable mulch for plants. Thousands of tons of this substance lie about mines and coal depots, and become a nuisance. Experiment shows that it is worth hauling a short distance for a mulch and fertilizer.

The pathetic and dramatic story about Miss Reno's oath of vengeance against the Seymour lynchings is said to be the invention of a highly imaginative reporter.

Congress puts it out of the power of the President to dismiss rascally office-holders, and then abuses him for their retention in office.

Dr. H. Marshall, of Atlanta, Ga., has invented a milk pail which, though it may be kicked over, holds on to the milk.

Soap-suds should never be wasted on washing-day, but should be poured on the manure heap that is designed for the garden.

It is stated that the sale of revolvers to merchants and other citizens in New York, for personal protection, is unusually large.